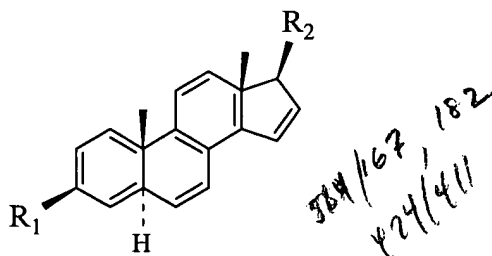


We claim:

1. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a bacterial infection in a mammal which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having the formula



wherein :

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, alkyl, alkanoyl or Y-substituted alkanoyl

wherein Y is alkyl, aryl or halo; and

R<sub>2</sub> is amide, or X-substituted amide wherein X is a peptide or an amino acid;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt and/or hydrate thereof, or where applicable, a geometric or optical isomer or racemic mixture thereof.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is alkanoyl and R<sub>2</sub> is X-substituted amide wherein X is an amino acid residue.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is acetyl and R<sub>2</sub> is prolyl.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein said compound has the formula: 3 $\beta$ -acetoxy-17 $\beta$ -(L-prolyl)amino-5 $\alpha$ -androstane.

5. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 in a form suitable for topical administration.

1           7.     A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5 wherein said carrier is  
2 selected from the group comprising lotion, salve, ointment, cream or oil.

1           8.     A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 comprising in addition a  
2 second anti-microbial agent.

1           9.     A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5 comprising in addition  
2 means for controlling the pH of said composition.

1           10.    A method of treating a gram positive bacterial infection in a mammal which  
2 comprises administering to said mammal an antimicrobial-effective amount of a compound of  
3 claim 5.

1           11.    The method of Claim 10 wherein said antimicrobial-effective amount is between  
2 about 25 milligram to about 1gram per kilogram body weight of said mammal treated.

1           12.    A method of inhibiting the growth of gram positive bacteria comprising  
2 contacting said bacteria with a compound of Claim 1.

1           13.    The method of Claim 10 wherein said gram-positive bacteria are selected from the  
2 group comprising penicillin-resistant, methicillin-resistant and vancomycin resistant gram-  
3 positive bacteria.

1           14.    The method of Claim 10 wherein said compound is administered to said mammal  
2 by topical means.

1           15.    The method of Claim 14 wherein said means is selected from the group  
2 comprising lotion, oil, emulsion and creme.

1           16.    The method of Claim 14 wherein said means comprises a surface-adhering  
2 dressing impregnated with said compound.